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## SECOND EDITION

## COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

## DIRECT BRITISH REFUSAL OF PREFERENCE.

LONDON, May 1. At the resumption of the sittings of the Colonial Conference to-day Mr. Asquith, Chancellor of the Exchequer, replied to the speeches of the colonial Premiers. He pointed blank refused any fiscal preference.

## PERSONAL.

VICE-REGAL. Her Excellency Lady Northcote yesterday afternoon visited the Sydney Technical College, and was received by Mr. Rogers, Chief Secretary, and Mr. D. Turner, Director of Technical Education. Mr. Rogers and Mr. Turner, the Registrar, and Miss Roberts and Miss Munro, of the Department of Domestic Economy, Her Excellency spent some time watching various classes at work, and generally inspecting the institution. Her Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Charles Greville, who was captain of the team. Her Excellency was accompanied by Mr. Charles Greville, who was captain of the team.

Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Asquith, were present at a meeting held in the Town Hall, Sydney, in connection with the Australian Exhibition of Women's Work. Her Excellency the Governor of South Australia, Mr. Asquith, and Mr. Asquith, were present at a meeting held in the Town Hall, Sydney, in connection with the Australian Exhibition of Women's Work.

Mr. John Forrest attended an official dinner at Government House, Hobart, last evening. He leaves for Melbourne via Launceston to-day.

Mr. William Lyne, who is the London correspondent of the "Argus," is not full of admiration of the great metropolis. The narrowness of the streets reminds him of Sydney, and a terrible fog which afflicted the city for several days after his arrival made him long for the Australian sun.

The Minister for Works, Mr. C. A. Lee, will be present at the official opening of the Lighthouse on May 13.

Mr. J. Davis, Under-Secretary for Public Works, who has been appointed consulting and inspecting engineer in London to the New South Wales Government, has arranged to take his departure from Sydney by the R.M.S. Ocean, sailing to-morrow. The officers of the Public Works Department will entertain him at a dinner at the Clifton Gardens, and amongst the visitors will be Mr. C. A. Lee, Minister for Public Works.

Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Stokes leave to-day, the official residence of the Captain-in-Charge, to-day, that residence being under repair. Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Stokes will be at the Clifton Gardens, Sydney, to-day, that residence being under repair. Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Stokes will be at the Clifton Gardens, Sydney, to-day, that residence being under repair.

Mr. Arthur Stretton, who is at present in Melbourne supervising the exhibition of his paintings in the Hibernian Hall, proposes to return to Sydney at an early date. Several of his pictures on view in Melbourne have been secured by the trustees of the Adelaide and Melbourne Art Galleries.

A reunion of Congregationalists took place at the Pitt-street Congregational Church yesterday afternoon. Invitations were issued by the Rev. J. C. Kirby, president-elect of the Congregational Union of Australia, and the Rev. Dr. Roseby, to those who had been members in the Church with them over years ago. About 100 persons were present, and a pleasant afternoon was spent. Afternoon tea was served in the schoolroom, and a number of short addresses were given. Amongst those present were Revs. C. J. Kirby, J. J. Bailey, Dr. Roseby, B. Wilson, N. G. Walker, B. Roseby, G. Gray, Alfred Allen, S. H. Lewis, A. Allen, Jun., W. Allen, W. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Dowling, Messrs. W. Paradise, Huxley, and Burdett.

## THE TRADE OF THE EMPIRE.

## PREFERENTIAL PROPOSALS

## DEBATED AT THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.

## SPECIFIC REQUESTS TO THE MOTHERLAND.

## STATEMENTS BY MR. DEAKIN AND SIR JOSEPH WARD.

## THE ATTITUDE OF CAPE COLONY AND NATAL.

LONDON, May 2.

At the resumption of the Colonial Conference the debate on preferential trade was resumed. Resolutions on behalf of the Commonwealth had been submitted to the Conference as follows:—

That the following resolutions, which were adopted by the Conference of 1902, be re-affirmed:—

That this Conference recognizes that the principle of preferential trade between the United Kingdom and his Majesty's Dominions beyond the seas would stimulate and facilitate mutual commercial intercourse, and would, by promoting the development of the resources and industries of the several parts, strengthen the Empire.

That this Conference recognizes that, in the present circumstances of the colonies, it is not practicable to adopt a general system of free trade as between the mother country and the British Dominions beyond the seas.

That it is desirable that the preferential treatment accorded by the colonies to the products and manufactures of the United Kingdom be also extended to the products and manufactures of other self-governing colonies.

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emphasized the fact that Canada was negotiating for a reciprocal tariff with Germany.

In correcting the press of his speech at the conference he denied using the term "bring foreign nations to their knees."

SIR JOSEPH WARD.

A WEIGHTY STATEMENT.

Sir Joseph Ward, in an able speech, which impressed the Conference, stated that the attachment of New Zealand to the Empire naturally induced colonists to desire to give the motherland preference, making reciprocity in return. He regretted that the question, which ought to be above party, had become involved in party contests.

He declared there was a distinct and essential difference between preference and the greater and more complex question of protection. The latter drew a ring fence of duty round any specified article, involving an increase of price. The effect of preference was not to raise the price of imported products, but to enable the foreigner to obtain the product at a lower price.

He understood that although New Zealand had conceded preference on certain British goods in 1903, competition between British merchants had prevented any increase of price to the consumer, though they were able to undersell the foreigner.

DETERMINING TRADE.

If he were an English politician he would advocate cheap food for the mass. If he thought that preference upon colonial products would increase the price of food he would not support it. He strongly believed that competition would ensure cheapness, and keep down prices.

Sir Joseph Ward, continuing, directed attention to the large decrease in British trade with the colonies, quoting a Board of Trade return to show that from 1903 to 1906 British trade with Australia and New Zealand had declined by £610,000 compared with 1900 and 1901.

This was suggestive of the inward-looking countries were making and of the neglect of British trade, and it seemed a serious consideration from the British authorities and merchants as to whether the loss was due to causes curable by practical methods.

COLONIES' DEVELOPMENT.

The presence of three British Ministers induced him to emphasize the fact that Australia and New Zealand, though yet in their infancy, were the third largest producers of British products, only India and Germany exceeding them, though India's production was 230,000,000, and Germany's 90,000,000.

He believed that while the limit of trade between Great Britain and the Continent was given entirely by Australia and New Zealand, the trade with Australia and New Zealand would be an ever-expanding one.

It was difficult to form any conception of what even the next 25 years would do in the way of the development of these countries.

merchants could obtain full detailed information on any commercial matter. Mr. Lloyd George interjected: A number of such appointments have already been made.

Sir Joseph Ward said he wanted to see dignity of their position if utilized as the great British centre, so that our people might not be behind competitors in any respect.

NEED FOR UNION.

Sir Joseph Ward impressed upon the Conference, and especially British statesmen, the imperative necessity of the colonies and the motherland being brought closer together.

He had a mortal hatred of tollbars, and had only seen one during ten years, while driving from London to the Crystal Palace recently. A greater one stood on the highway of commerce between England and her dependencies.

He returned to the Suez Canal, and said that Dierdard's acquisition of a substantial interest in the Canal was a bold stroke of genius. It was worthy of consideration whether it would not pay the British Empire, and France, as the controlling Powers, if they agreed to pay a dividend to the shareholders, so that ships sailing under the British and French flags might push through free of charge of a tollbar charge.

Colonial producers would then be enabled to send perishable products in tramp steamers through the Canal instead of by way of Cape Town and other routes. This would save time, besides proving advantageous to the products exported; also the improved facilities would be certain to lead to increased trade. New Zealand would be prepared to assist to provide the sum required.

STEAMER SERVICES.

He urged that Great Britain should join Australia, Canada, and New Zealand in improved steam mail services between them. He had nothing to say against the existing services, but he had his eye specially on the service across the Atlantic and Pacific, via Vancouver. He was quite satisfied that if Mr. Deakin and Sir Wilfrid Laurier were willing to support a large and suitable class of steamers there would be no great difficulty in shortening by days the time between Australia, New Zealand, and London, even bringing New Zealand within 30 days of London. This would strengthen imperial commercial and domestic ties.

POWER TO NEGOTIATE.

New Zealand had already entered into a commercial treaty with South Africa, had extended the existing tariff to Canada, and was also willing to enter into a reciprocal treaty with Canada for free trade, and preference to Great Britain. That also showed they favoured preferential trade within the Empire. He wished to see Great Britain respond.

When Great Britain and all her colonies had a preferential tariff, they could say to Germany, America, or other protected countries, that Great Britain and her overseas dominions were prepared to consider a reciprocal treaty with highly protected nations on certain articles of mutual advantage.

If the motherland and her children combined, they would be able to prevent colonial products being subjected to high and often prohibitive duties by foreign countries. He emphasized that foreign countries made strenuous efforts to secure our trade by means of subsidies to steamers, and railway facilities.

He admired the way that some foreign competitors worked to obtain commercial extension; but as a matter of self-protection, and with the object of preventing drift, which might eventually lead to disintegration, he urged, in the interest of great national development, that we should have a mutual trade arrangement throughout the Empire.

New Zealand would be glad to consider a reciprocal treaty with Australia. Both were adjusting their tariffs next year, and it was possible to bring the two peoples closer in touch with a view to mutual advantage he was sure the New Zealand Parliament would heartily support it.

AN APPEAL.

"Since the commercial policy of every great Continental nation," Sir Joseph Ward said, "is necessarily directed to the protection of its interests and against the interests of Great Britain's overseas kith and kin, that warrants our appealing to Great Britain to join in accomplishing what I honestly believe will vitally and add to the strengthening and greatness of the Empire."

## PEACE OF EUROPE.

## PRINCE BULOW'S SPEECH.

## A FRIENDLY DECLARATION.

LONDON, May 1.

Prince Bulow, the German Chancellor, in the course of his eminently peaceful speech in the Reichstag, said that every time the German Emperor had journeyed to the Mediterranean he had visited the King of Italy, and it was quite natural that King Edward should do the same when touching the Italian coast. The friendly relations of England with Italy were advantageous and desirable to Germany.

He had no arriere pensee. Respecting Persia, the Anglo-Russian rapprochement was an attempt to settle old disputes. There was no opposition between England and Russia that could be turned to Germany's account.

In Morocco Germany only desired equal commercial opportunities.

There were no controversies between England and Germany which could interfere with the friendly efforts of the sensible sections of both nations.

"Let us," said Prince Bulow, in conclusion, "cultivate friendships and alliances, and not be anxious respecting ententes upon matters which do not immediately affect us. Grant others the freedom of movement which we claim for ourselves."

The speech had a reassuring effect throughout Europe.

## KING EDWARD.

LONDON, May 1.

Owing to the May Day demonstrations very special precautions are being taken in Paris for the protection of King Edward.

## SCOTTISH LANDOWNERS' BILL.

LONDON, May 1.

The Scottish Small Landowners' Bill has been read the second time in the House of Commons.

During the debate Mr. A. J. Balfour charged the Government with taking land and the capital sunk in it, speculating with it, and leaving the loss to be borne by the owner. He added that it was apparently intended to extend the bill to England.

## CONSULAR APPOINTMENT.

LONDON, May 1.

Mr. David Hunter has been gazetted Consul for Japan at Melbourne.

## COMPULSORY VACCINATION.

LONDON, May 1.

Mr. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board, has introduced a bill in the House of Commons to enable persons who hold conscientious objections to vaccination to make a declaration to that effect before a commissioner of oaths, and thereby secure exemption.

## TRANSVAAL MINING.

LONDON, May 1.

The correspondent of the "Times" at Johannesburg states that Mr. J. C. Smuts, Colonial Secretary, is earnestly attempting to understand the difficulties attending with the mining industry, but the Imperial Government is still proceeding. The Transvaal to procure the immediate repatriation of Chinese.

## AN APPEAL FOR OXFORD.

LONDON, May 2.

Lord Curzon is making an appeal for £250,000 to strengthen the endowments and equip Oxford University on modern lines for literary and scientific studies.

## ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION.

LONDON, May 1.

A bomb exploded near the carriage of the President of the Republic of Guatemala. General Orellana and the coachman were injured.

## COLONIAL PREMIERS.

## HONoured BY THE VICTORIA LEAGUE.

## "THE OFFICIAL COLD SHOULDER."

LONDON, May 2.

At a meeting of the Victoria League at the Imperial Institute, Lady Jersey, who was in the chair, presented colonial Premiers with an address of welcome, signed by 1900 members.

Mr. Deakin, in acknowledging the address, referred humorously to the interference with the Colonial Conference by banqueting galleys, which departmental matters might almost be supposed to have carefully planned with a view of distracting them from the business of the Empire, or preventing a better understanding.

He added in a half cheery vein that "despite such surroundings we are not crushed." (Cheers.) It was well in vain for some things in official circles, for sympathy and assistance, for the helping hand extended to us in our remote countries, and for action here, so all important at the centre, we can look to the leagues and voluntary organisations of citizens to fill the place official circles are inclined to leave empty. (Cheers.)

"The league," Mr. Deakin continued, "has received the cordial thanks of the people of the outer Empire."

"If you receive less than a meed of recognition here, if the cold shoulder is turned to the league as it is to us, remember there is a warm hand on the other side of the globe grasping yours."

"After all, this country has been created as much without its Governments, sometimes despite its Governments, as with them."

Mr. Joseph Ward, who also spoke, was equally applauded.

He referred to the teaching of the Empire's history in New Zealand, and also the teaching of boys to use the rifle.

Mr. Winston Churchill (Under-Secretary for the Colonies) started to attend, but wrote regretting that he had been recalled to the Colonial Office on urgent business.

## STRIKE AT WARSAW.

LONDON, May 1.

A general strike has been declared at Warsaw. Trade is stopped. Meat and bread cannot be purchased.

## TASMANIA AND THE UNION.

LONDON, May 1.

ACTING PRIME MINISTER AT ROBERT.

CONFERENCE WITH MINISTERS.

ROBERT, Thursday.

EXPERIMENTS OF CONTAGION.

EXPERIMENT NO. 1.—On the 3rd of November, 1906, 14 rabbits were taken from a wood having been previously made to drink a culture of rabbit virus in some "bottles." In the same cage were 14 other rabbits, which on December 10 more. Out of the 14 rabbits directly infected with the virus, 10 died between the 25th and 30th of November, four within eight days. Out of the 14 exposed rabbits put in the same cage, 13 died from contagion, the last on January 1, 1907.

## RABBIT DESTRUCTION.

## BROUGHTON ISLAND EXPERIMENTS.

## SECOND REPORT BY DR. DANYS.

## THE RABBIT VIRUS EFFECTIVE.

## WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS.

The results of the experiments in rabbit destruction by a contagious disease, carried on by Dr. Danys, in collaboration with Mr. A. Latapie, on Broughton Island from October 20 last to the 1st instant, are contained in the following report submitted by Dr. Danys to the committee of the Pastures Protection Board's Council of Advice Rabbit Destruction Fund:—

The aim of the researches I had to make on Broughton Island was to find out (1st) if the rabbit virus could give in practice better results than the means of destruction hitherto employed, and (2nd) if the rabbit virus could be used on stations infested with rabbits without any danger to man, domestic or wild animals.

The first of these two questions may be considered as solved as far as it can be under the special conditions of climate and soil found on the island, and which will rarely be found on the mainland. As regards the second question, viz. the harmlessness of the rabbit virus to other animals, I will show in the course of this report the results of very reassuring experiments carried out on the island, which have thought it necessary to expose domestic animals to contagion for a whole year, and to carry on the experiments till October next.

It is known that some contagious diseases of men and animals are more frequent and more virulent in certain seasons of the year. We must see whether sheep, cattle, horses, pigs, fowls, etc., can resist the rabbit virus with the same immunity as they do with the same as during the summer; in autumn as well as in winter. This part of the work will be carried out by Dr. Tidwell, who will make a special report on this important question.

My aim was also to find by every means available to me on the island a method of rabbit destruction that can be used by anybody, and which would be serviceable on large stations. We have seen that the virus can show that the disease was contagious, and say that it was sufficient to destroy the rabbit.

Microbes are living creatures, whose properties vary according to the conditions of time, temperature, surroundings, in which they are placed, the way they are introduced, the food with which they are mixed in order to get the rabbits to take them. To make this lecture more useful, I have therefore made a study of all these conditions. I will show in this report the following points:—(1st) the results obtained on Broughton Island, (2nd) experiments of contagion, (3rd) experiments to ascertain the suitability of the virus and other means of infection of the rabbit, (4th) experiments showing practical methods to prepare the virus on a large scale, (5th) conditions under which the virus can be kept, and the length of time during which it will keep all its infectious properties. The conditions under which the preparation of the virus, its distribution, and its use, require a special apprenticeship, and upon that part of the work I will have to understand and explain. I will answer in a few words the criticisms of my method which have now and then appeared in some of the Australian papers.

EXPERIMENTS OF CONTAGION.

The experiments of contagion have been made on rabbits, but in cages and on rabbits living in the open, in an enclosure.

Experiment No. 1.—On the 3rd of November, 1906, 14 rabbits were taken from a wood having been previously made to drink a culture of rabbit virus in some "bottles." In the same cage were 14 other rabbits, which on December 10 more. Out of the 14 rabbits directly infected with the virus, 10 died between the 25th and 30th of November, four within eight days. Out of the 14 exposed rabbits put in the same cage, 13 died from contagion, the last on January 1, 1907.

Experiment No. 2.—On November 27, in a cage are put five rabbits which are fed with lucerne and carrots sprinkled with virus. On the 28th and 29th of November the rabbits are given lucerne and carrots sprinkled with virus. All the rabbits die. The last rabbit died on December 1, 1906.

Experiment No. 3.—On December 1, 1906, 150 rabbits are put in paddock No. 3 (of an acre), to these are added 15 directly infected with lucerne and carrots sprinkled with virus. Being sandy, rabbits have rapidly made deep and extensive burrows. It was impossible to count exactly the number of burrows, but the rabbits were seen to be very numerous.

We estimated approximately the number of live rabbits by counting all that came to eat lucerne, which was placed in the corners of the paddock. From the 1st to the 30th of December there were found dead on the surface five rabbits, which had been infected by rabbits, and 20 others which had taken the disease by contagion. 25 live rabbits could be counted at night on the 30th of December, and the same number on the 1st of January, 1907. The surviving rabbits were all found where they were, have been used for another experiment.

Experiment No. 4.—On March 14, 1907, were shut together in paddock No. 4 (of an acre) 133 healthy rabbits and 38 infected by the mouth or skin with lucerne and carrots sprinkled with virus. The surviving rabbits were all found where they were, have been used for another experiment.

The soil of No. 4 paddock is low, and less permeable than that of No. 3. The rabbits could make very few burrows. Nearly all the dead rabbits were on the surface; it was possible to count the number of burrows, and to follow the progress of contagion. The experiment was started on March 18, in the morning; on the 19th, 24 rabbits were found dead, and the dead bodies of (a) 8 of the infected rabbits, (b) four of the exposed rabbits. (It is possible that the rabbits of (a) had been infected by rabbits, and the rabbits of (b) by contagion through wounds received in fighting.) It is certain that the four rabbits (b) were infected by rabbits, and the rabbits of (a) by contagion. The same may be said of all the rabbits dead during the first week of the experiment. From March 18 till April 17, 24 rabbits were found dead, and the dead bodies of (a) 22 of the infected rabbits, (b) 13 of the exposed rabbits. From March 28 till April 17, 24 rabbits were found dead, and the dead bodies of (a) 22 of the infected rabbits, (b) 13 of the exposed rabbits. There is no doubt that during this period the rabbits (b) have been contaminated not only by direct contact with the infected rabbits, but by the virus deposited by those sick and dead upon grass, on the soil, and in the water (found in the paddock). It is to be expected that the mortality amongst the rabbits in No. 4 paddock has not yet ended. This experiment has proved that the virus will show how long the virulence of microbes can still maintain itself. The total result of the four experiments is that the virus is effective, and that it can be used on large stations.

These experiments lead us to affirm with certainty two very important points: 1st, The pasteurisation of the rabbit is a disease which has transmitted itself directly to the healthy during the life of the disease. 2nd, The spots where the infected rabbits have lived to some extent proved to be contagious, and it is very important to draw attention to the fact that we have never obtained on Broughton Island the infection of the lungs and nose which is the most contagious form, and the most frequent, of the virus. The rabbits in Europe, on Broughton Island we have to take into account this form of the disease, since in open air experiments rats in cages. Since we were able to do so, the rabbits of the Health in Sydney (see Dr. Tidwell's report), we must conclude that the special climatic conditions of the island prevent the appearance of this form of the disease, and that such conditions will not exist on the mainland.

To sum up, the experiments of contagion which have been made on Broughton Island have proved that the virus is effective, and that it can be used on large stations. The rabbits in Europe, on Broughton Island we have to take into account this form of the disease, since in open air experiments rats in cages. Since we were able to do so, the rabbits of the Health in Sydney (see Dr. Tidwell's report), we must conclude that the special climatic conditions of the island prevent the appearance of this form of the disease, and that such conditions will not exist on the mainland.

It was hardly possible up to now to carry on any precise experiments with rabbits living in the open, under conditions as near as possible to natural life, as it does in cages. The observations made on Broughton Island, as well as in the Board of Health laboratory, enable us to hope that on the mainland, the disease will be more contagious than on the island.

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